



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SR 84/SCR 74  
REQUESTING A CONTROL PROGRAM FOR THE RED-VENTED AND RED-WHISKERED  
BULBULS TO PROTECT HAWAII'S AGRICULTURE

Statement for  
Senate committee on  
Agriculture, Energy and Ocean Resources  
Public Hearing - March 30, 1988

By  
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SR 84/SCR 74 would require the Governor's Agriculture Coordinating Committee, in coordination with the USDA, to develop a control program to prevent the spread of Bulbuls to the neighbor islands and prevent and alleviate damages caused by the Bulbul and other pest birds on Oahu.

Our comments do not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We support the intent of these resolutions as they attempt to create a control program to prevent the Bulbul from being introduced into the neighbor islands. An effective control program as requested by these resolutions has the potential to save the State valuable agricultural and economic resources by eliminating the need for local pest management and control on the neighbor islands. On Oahu, the Bulbul has resulted in significant economic losses to farmers by damaging valuable crops and making management and control programs necessary to prevent increasing losses. Furthermore, the Bulbul can carry infectious diseases to Hawaii's native birds and spread weed seeds throughout Oahu, including agricultural areas.

In the first "Be it Resolved" clause, we suggest that the Governor's Agriculture Coordinating Committee also consult with appropriate departments of the University of Hawaii in the preparation and development of the control programs.

Our reviewers have commented that the general public regards the Bulbul as an attractive and colorful bird and is unaware of its potential menacing impacts to agricultural resources and ecosystems, particularly if

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it should be introduced to the neighbor islands. For example, we have learned of specific instances where uninformed people have taken pet Bulbuls with them on neighbor island trips. To address this lack of information and potential for both environmental and agricultural loss, action should be taken immediately to encourage the media to educate the public by means of newspaper articles and public service announcements as to the economic and environmental damages caused by Bulbuls. Additionally, the resolutions should include recognition of funding needs for both the development and implementation of the control programs. We suggest that these resolutions be amended to include the following language:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture immediately encourage local media to educate the public by means of newspaper articles and public service announcements as to the economic and environmental damages caused by Bulbuls and to stress the need to avoid the introduction of Bulbuls to the neighbor islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Agriculture Coordinating Committee, as part of its report to the 1989 legislature, recommend the amount of funding that will be necessary to implement the control program.